

Growth Management Oversight Commission

February 23, 2006
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room
Ken Lee Building

DRAFT MINUTES

GMOC MEMBERS PRESENT: Tripp Krogh Spethman
Palma Garcia Waters
Arroyo Little

GMOC MEMBERS ABSENT: Moya

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Stephens, GMOC Coordinator
Rick Emerson, Chief of Police
Ed Chew, PD Admin. Services
Karin Schmerler, PD Analyst
Doug Perry, Fire Chief
Pablo Quilantan, FD Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Spethman called the meeting to order at approximately 6:10 p.m., and Mark Stephens called the roll. A motion to excuse Commissioner Moya was passed.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chairman invited comments on the minutes of the meeting of 02/09/06. Commissioners Palma and Krogh made and seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Spethman noted that there were members of the public present, but no comments were made.

4. REVIEW OF QUESTIONNAIRES

Mark pointed out and welcomed the Chiefs and staff from both the Police and Fire Departments.

Police

Chief Emerson introduced Ed Chew and Karin Schmerler to make a presentation addressing the questions and concerns raised by the GMOC. Ed outlined the main presentation topics: meeting the priority one call threshold, priority two threshold issues, resident opinion survey and the 5-year strategic plan. He pointed out that the department is meeting the

priority one call thresholds during the first half of the current fiscal year, but the priority two call thresholds are still not being met. Dispatchers are “triaging” priority two calls and there has also been an increase in these. He described new software that would assist the dispatchers, and also explained how new staffing may assist along with concentrating more staffing on the swing shift where more calls were noted.

He explained how the resident surveys are handled and distributed a copy to the commissioners. He went on to explain the percentage of responses for some of the key questions. Ed described the 5-year Strategic Plan of the department. The department is about to institute online reporting for priority 3 and/or 4, which would be tested before roll-out. The Council approved alcohol ban in some of the City’s parks has been a tool to reduce unruly behavior. Police staff also described the role of environmental design and the use of closed circuit television.

Sunny Chandler said she was a 74-year old resident, and commended the CVPD on the work they are doing to make Chula Vista safe for its residents. She stated that she is out fairly late and feels quite safe in this city. The GMOC and PD staff thanked her for her opinion.

Chairman Spethman asked how the GMOC could best help the Police. Chief Emerson replied that GMOC support for the funds needed to meet projected staff and equipment needs would be appreciated.

Chairman Spethman asked about the need for a helicopter in Chula Vista, and feasibility of joint use with the Fire Department. Chief Emerson stated that they were investigating an aerial platform to be proactive. It would be high maintenance, and won’t be within the next year, but they will look at a variety of options. Commissioner Krogh suggested using parking lots, perhaps one public and one private, to apply additional security measures on a demonstration basis. Commissioner Little asked about the concentration of officers on beats on east vs. west sides of the City.

The Chairman thanked the Chief and his staff for their time and input.

Fire/EMS

Fire Chief Perry and analyst Pablo Quilantan talked about the software and system in use to furnish data on specific geographic areas and the needs of these areas. They noted the improved response time even with more calls during the past year, and that the response time thresholds were being met. They are also looking at ALS (Advanced Life Support) plans. They currently partner with AMR to answer EMS calls.

The Fire Facilities Master Plan is well under way, and it will address the needs for facilities, staffing and equipment. There are new stations being

opened up resulting in increased Fire Dept. operating expenses. The administrative staff has increased and the department shares the CAD dispatching system with the Police Department. The Chief pointed out that the FD is generally not a revenue generator. The Fire Department is also responsible for more than just fire-fighting. They are a lead agency in anti-terrorism, hazardous materials, emergency medical services and are constantly upgrading the training of the force.

The Chairman asked about speed bumps and other street facilities which limit maneuvering of the fire engines and affect their response times. It was noted that an example cited was a private drive, and the design of new public streets has better addressed Fire Department concerns. Nonetheless, Chief Perry emphasized how critical response time is for much of the Fire Department's work, and he stated that higher rise buildings envisioned in some areas and additional congestion will affect response time.

Commissioner Krogh asked why the data are for CY 2005, while prior years are for fiscal years. Pablo Quilantan said that the Fire Department was given a deadline to furnish the information, and the numbers supplied were for the most recent 12 months. Mr. Krogh suggested that data be provided for a comparable fiscal year period to facilitate comparison with prior years. He also asked about other data changes and the reliability of the information. Mr. Quilantan replied that current reporting capabilities have improved.

The Chairman asked whether all firefighters were EMT trained. Chief Perry stated that Chula Vista was one of few jurisdictions in the County where this was not a pre-requisite for becoming a firefighter. He also stated that it was something which the City is thinking of changing, but it is costly and trade-offs are involved. The Chairman stated that the department should keep the GMOC apprised of the turn out / response times. Pablo Quilantan provided a handout of response times by shift, and Chief Perry noted that this has been an incentive for the various shifts. The GMOC expressed their appreciation for this information, which has been sought for some time. The request was made for Mr. Quilantan to furnish the reports on a regular basis to the GMOC.

The group thanked the Chief and Mr. Quilantan for their time and input.

5. COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF COMMENT

Given the late hour, no additional comments were made other than to wish Secretary Rabbia Phillip, who was out ill, a speedy recovery.

6. NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for March 2 in the Conference Room of the Ken Lee Building,
430 F Street.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tripp with unanimous agreement, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Rabbia Phillip
Secretary

Mark Stephens
Growth Management Coordinator